

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly add the following to the first line of the Claims:

What is claimed is:

Kindly cancel claims 2, 44, 46, and 48; amend claims 3, 8, 17, and 47; and add new claims 49-58 as follows:

1. cancelled

2. cancelled

B⁴ 3.(currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim [2]8, which is a mammalian polypeptide.

4. The isolated polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the polypeptide is a human polypeptide.

5. (amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid having ATCC Designation No. 209510.

B⁵ 6. (amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

7. (amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

8. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is (at least about) 90% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

9. The isolated polypeptide of claim 8, which has (a bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide).

10. The isolated polypeptide of claim 9, which binds a target peptide.

11. The isolated polypeptide of claim 10, which binds angiotensin I.

12. The isolated polypeptide of claim 11, which hydrolyzes angiotensin I into angiotensin (1-9).

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13. The isolated polypeptide of claim 10, which binds kinetensin.

15. The isolated polypeptide of claim 13, which hydrolyzes kinetensin into kinetensin (1-8).

16. The isolated polypeptide of claim 8, which is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or complement thereof.

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17. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising at least [about] 50 consecutive amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2 and which has [a] at least one bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide.

18-43 cancelled

44. cancelled

45. An isolated polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

46. cancelled

B₇

47.(currently amended) The isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least [about] 90 % identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide [as a] has at least one bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide.

48. cancelled

49.(new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 47, which binds a target peptide.

50.(new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 49, which binds angiotensin I.

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51.(new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 50, which hydrolyzes angiotensin I into angiotensin (1-9).

52.(new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 49, which binds kinetensin.

53.(new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 52, which hydrolyzes kinetensin into kinetensin (1-8).

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54.(new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 17, which binds a target peptide.

55.(new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 54, which binds angiotensin I.

56.(new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 55, which hydrolyzes angiotensin I into
angiotensin (1-9).

57.(new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 54, which binds kinetensin.

58.(new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 57, which hydrolyzes kinetensin into
kinetensin (1-8).
